



*Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Embassy, Wellington*

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**U.S. State Department announces worldwide introduction of
Electronic Visa Application Form**

From November 1st, 2006 the small number of New Zealanders requiring visas to travel to the United States will need to complete their visa application form on the internet using an Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF).

This change from handwritten or typed visa application forms applies worldwide, and is designed to improve the service provided to those travelers requiring US visas.

Waiting times for visa interviews will be cut as applicants will no longer have to wait for consular staff to enter their data before completing their interview.

“The new process is designed to be quicker and easier -- it will decrease the chances of data entry errors and eliminate double-handling of information. The goal is to save applicants time when they come for their interviews,” says Richard Adams, head of Consular Services at the United States Consulate General in Auckland.

The EVAF can be accessed from any internet-connected location, such as home PCs, internet cafes, libraries, or schools. The system has been designed to keep application data secure and its reliability and privacy have been proven through the successful completion of thousands of applications.

Access to the EVAF e-forms DS-156 and DS-1648 can be found at: <http://evisaforms.state.gov/>.

It is important to note that this change will not affect the vast majority of New Zealand passport-holders traveling to the U.S. as tourists under the long-standing U.S. Visa Waiver Program. Further information on the Visa Waiver Program is available from the Visa Services section of the US Embassy website at: http://newzealand.usembassy.gov/visa_services.html.